



HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

VALLEY OF THE GIANTS

**JOHN F. OHMER
1856-193-**

Upon the suggestion of his son, John Francis Ohmer, Jr., who had joined the Engineers Club in 1915, John F. Ohmer, Sr. became a Club member in September of 1924. Other Ohmer family members joining the Club included Henry B. Ohmer (1921) and George H. Ohmer (1943). The following biographical detail was found in the Montgomery County Library:

John F. Ohmer. If the ordinary individual pauses a minute to give close attention to even the commonest of the utilitarian devices which he handles or continually makes use of, he finds these articles so completely fitted for the purposes intended that he may well be amazed, especially if he possesses no inventive talent himself. If this is so with the commonest of articles, it is trebly so with such a complicated invention as a car register. To John F. Ohmer, president and general manager of the Ohmer Fare Register Company of Dayton, belongs the credit for inventing and perfecting what was known the world over as the standard car register. Mr. Ohmer belonged to a well-known business family of Dayton, and was born in this city November 7, 1856, and was the eldest son of Michael and Rose M. Ohmer. His father, a native of France, was brought to the United States in boyhood and for sev-

eral years worked in a cotton factory, and in 1849 founded what later became the firm of M. Ohmer's Sons Company, located at Second and Main Streets, on the present site of the vacant Lazarus Building. About 1855, he moved across the street, and about 1860, he made another removal to 126-128 N. Main Street, with his factory located on East First Street, where he continued in business until his retirement in 1878. There were the following children in the family of Michael and Rose M. Ohmer: Carrie, the widow of Henry Barlow, of Dayton; John F., of this review; Edward G., Will I., Alfred A., Minnie, the wife of Edward B. Grime, of Dayton, and Eugene A. and Rose M., of Dayton. John F. Ohmer attended the public schools and St. Mary's College, and in 1870 left school to take a position with his father in the furniture business, which he bought outright at the time of his father's retirement in 1878, and his brothers were then admitted to the firm, the firm subsequently being known as M. Ohmer's Sons. A few years later the firm was incorporated under the name of The M. Ohmer's Sons Company, and John F. Ohmer was elected its first president and served continuously in that capacity. The M. Ohmer's Sons Company built the fireproof building located at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets, where a retail business was conducted for a number of years. Mr. Ohmer, with Mr. Edward Canby, built the Ohmer-Canby building next to the M. Ohmer's Sons Company building, at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets, and his father also erected a three-story pressed-brick building on the north side of Fifth Street, between Main and

Ludlow Streets. In 1881 Mr. Ohmer opened up and operated on his own account as a side-line the dining stations and restaurants on the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba railroad, which was a part of the Great Northern system, in Minnesota and Dakota. This business was conducted successfully until 1888, at which time the entire restaurant business was sold. Having inherited inventive genius from his father, Mr. Ohmer made application and received a patent in 1874 on a furniture caster. Since that time he took out approximately one hundred United States patents and many foreign patents, largely on registering and recording devices particularly adapted for use by transportation companies. In November, 1898, Mr. Ohmer organized the Ohmer Fare Register Company, and this company began the manufacture of his patented inventions with a capital of \$100,000, his associates in this venture being Hon. Frederick Cook, Frederick P. Allen, Eugene Satterlee, John H. Stedman and William B. Farnham of Rochester, N.Y. The Company was reorganized August 1, 1902, under the name of Ohmer Fare Register company, with a capital of \$1,500,000, the incorporators and officers being the same. Both companies were organized for the purpose of manufacturing fare registers and fixtures pertaining for use in street and interurban railway cars and in other public conveyances. John F. Ohmer, president and general manager, was the inventor of the original registers for indicating, recording and printing separately different denominations of fares collected in various types of railway cars. He is credited with having had

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Family Night / Birthday Buffet City Slickers Western Night Friday, July 22, 1994



Have Curly come down from the bunk house for a hoedown of a good time!!

MENU:

Buffet Includes:

BBQ Pork Ribs Deep Fried Catfish
Southern Fried Chicken
Au gratin Potatoes Corn on the Cob
Spicy Baked Beans

Deluxe Salad Bar to include:

3 Bean Salad
Potato Salad
Watermelon

Dessert Bar to include:

Georgian Peach Pie Strawberry Pie

All prices are subject to service charge and state sales tax

Serving 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Remember:

You don't have to have a birthday to attend!

Adults \$13.00
Children \$6.00 (3-11)
Under 3 Free

(Birthday discount for members, spouses and their children under 21 only.)

ATTENTION JULY BIRTHDAYS

If the birthday of your spouse, your children (under 21) or you falls in July, join us for Family Night and you will receive the percentage of your age off the regular buffet price.

Here's how it works:

If you or your immediate family member's birthday falls in this month, notify us when you call for reservations.

For example: If you are 40 years old, you will receive 40 percent off the buffet price. If you are 90 years old, you will receive 90 percent off the buffet price. What a birthday deal!

GUESTS WELCOME!

Valley of the Giants

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more patents granted to him in the United States and foreign countries than to any other resident of Dayton. Besides being the patentee of his own inventions, which are numerous, he had been the executive head of the corporations bearing the family name since the initial organization. His early patents were generic in character, for he was the first one to produce a multiple fare recording, indicating and printing register. From a modest beginning the Ohmer Fare Register Company had become the largest plant in the world for the manufacture of car registers and similar devices, and its products were in constant demand in every state in the Union, as well as in some foreign countries.

Mr. Ohmer was married in 1886 to Anna K. Beckman, of Cleveland, and four sons and three daughters were the fruits of that marriage. Mr. Ohmer believed in children and believed also in placing confidence in them in order to secure their confidence, and had made it a habit to be companionable with his children and make them feel that they were on an equality with the parent. All of the sons were engaged with the

father in conducting the business of the Ohmer Fare Register Company, each having had charge of an important department of the business. Mr. Ohmer had been a member of the Dayton City and Dayton Country Clubs since their organization; he was a member of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce, the United States Chamber of Commerce, the Dayton Engineers Club, and was a member and trustee of the Dayton Rotary Club. He was a lifelong member of the Catholic church. He was on the original Board of Trustees to organize the congregation and build Sacred Heart Church. Mr. Ohmer traveled quite extensively throughout the North American continent, and made seven trips to Great Britain and the continent of Europe. A few years after his marriage, Mr. Ohmer built a handsome residence on West First Street, where he and his family lived.

John F. Ohmer, Sr. was another excellent example of the kind of people who have made Dayton and surrounding area what it is today - THE VALLEY OF THE GIANTS!